

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 12114 140035Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----032875 140044Z /61
O 132312Z DEC 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN DAMASCUS
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 12114

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

CAIRO FOR ATHERTON

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON MID-EAST TRIP

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE SHAH TO BRING HIM
UP TO DATE ON MY CURRENT MIDDLE EAST TRIP:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY:

AS I CONCLUDE MY VISITS TO ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS, I
WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH YOU THE THOUGHTS
ON THE FAST-CHANGING SITUATION HERE THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM
MY TALKS OVER THE PAST FIVE DAYS.

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PRESIDENT CARTER ASKED ME TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST
BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE A
DIRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE KEY PARTIES
TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT
SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL. MY CONVERSATIONS AT EACH
STOP HAVE PROVED THE WISDOM OF THE PRESIDENT'S
JUDGMENT; WE ARE COMING AWAY WITH A MUCH MORE PRECISE

UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE EVENTS ARE HEADING AND HOW THEY CAN
BE WOVEN INTO THE SEARCH FOR AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT.

PRESIDENT SADAT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE MOMENTUM
GENERATED BY HIS HISTORIC TRIP MUST NOT BE LOST AND
THAT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN ISRAEL MUST MAKE CONCRETE
DECISIONS COMMENSURATE WITH HIS BOLD DECISION TO VISIT
JERUSALEM. HE BELIEVES THAT HE HAS DEMONSTRATED BEYOND
QUESTION EGYPT'S READINESS TO MAKE PEACE AND WANTS A
PUBLIC ISRAELI COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE SUBJECTS OF
WITHDRAWAL AND A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.

I CONVEYED HIS VIEW TO THE ISRAELI LEADERS AND AM

GLAD TO SAY I FOUND UNRESERVED UNDERSTANDING OF SADAT'S
VIEW THAT ISRAEL MUST MAKE A CONCRETE RESPONSE. I CANNOT
SAY YET WHAT THEIR RESPONSE WILL BE BUT I AM ENCOURAGED
THAT THEY ARE THOUGHTFULLY CONSIDERING EXACTLY HOW THEY
CAN RESPOND. IN THAT CONTEXT, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAS
ASKED TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER LATER THIS WEEK, AND THE
PRESIDENT HAS SCHEDULED A MEETING WITH HIM THIS FRIDAY.
THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID THAT HE WISHES TO DISCUSS ALL
ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION
OF A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT.

IN SYRIA, I TOLD PRESIDENT ASSAD THAT THE US
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CONTINUES TO HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN A COMPREHENSIVE
SETTLEMENT. I EXPLAINED WHY WE BELIEVE THE MEETINGS
IN CAIRO CAN BE USEFUL IN PREPARING THE WAY FOR
RECONVENING THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.
I STATED MY UNDERSTANDING FROM PRESIDENT SADAT THAT
THEIR OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP PRINCIPLES THAT MIGHT
GOVERN A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AND THE PROCEDURES THAT
WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.
I DO NOT BELIEVE EITHER PRESIDENT SADAT OR PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN SEE THE CAIRO MEETINGS AS ENDS IN THEMSELVES,
BUT RATHER IN THE CONTEXT OF PURSUING AN OVERALL
SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT ASSAD REMAINS DEEPLY CONCERNED
OVER THE PRESENT DIVISIVENESS IN THE ARAB WORLD. I
MADE CLEAR MY HOPE THAT THE TIME WILL COME WHEN SYRIA
WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE UNITED
STATES HAS NO INTEREST IN A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT.

I KNOW YOU WILL HAVE YOUR OWN VIEWS ON THIS SITUATION,
YOUR MAJESTY, BUT AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT AN OPPORTUNITY
HAS NOW BEEN CREATED WHICH MUST NOT BE LOST. WE WILL BE
WORKING CLOSELY WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND
PRESIDENT SADAT AS IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE

DAYS AHEAD.

SINCERELY,

CYRUS VANCE

END TEXT

3. FOR AMBASSADOR: ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE
BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AT 0700 ISRAELI TIME, DEC. 14.
SECRETARY WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE THIS MESSAGE TO BE AVAILABLE
TO THE SHAH BEFORE HE HEARS THE NEWS ON THE RADIO
SO THAT HE WILL BE AWARE WE THOUGHT OF HIM IN ADVANCE.
KNOWING THAT, WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION HOW BEST TO
HAVE IT DELIVERED.

VANCE

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